

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35, 39-52, 54-56, and 59-60 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 17, 32, 33, and 35 are independent. Claims 36-38, 53, and 57-58 have been cancelled.

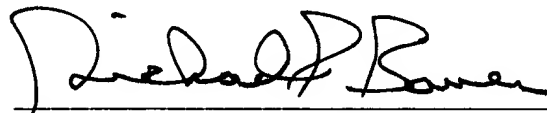
The pending claims were rejected as being unpatentable over WO 00/41406 (Willehadson), and Sheinbein, for the reasons discussed on pages 2-6 of the Office Action. The Applicants expressly traverse all art rejections.

Each of the independent claims recites a novel combination of structure and function whereby each terminal agent is associated, on a one-to-one basis, with a corresponding terminal. See, for example the embodiment depicted in Fig. 1 and described in the specification at page 7, the first full paragraph. In contrast, none of the cited art (including Willehadson and Sheinbein) whether taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed combination of features, including those discussed above. Accordingly, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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